

### **Non-Capital Electronics**

The item “Non-Capital Electronics” has been added to the non-capital object (400) section of the IDEA budgets. LEAs must select this item when budgeting for electronic devices such as computers, laptops, netbooks, SMART boards, PDAs, iPods, iPads, etc. The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) has highlighted these items as being “high-risk” for loss or theft. If an LEA is using federal funds to purchase these items, they should be included in an LEA’s inventory system even if they do not meet the capital object threshold of the school district.

When non-capital electronics is selected from the budget menu, the user is required to identify the number of units, the type of electronic device, and to complete an assurance statement that the need for the electronic device is an excess cost of special education. Multiple numbers of the same electronic device may be included in one budget line item. However, the LEA should not mix electronic devices, i.e., the purchase of ten laptops should not be included in the same budget entry with three SMART boards. These should be two separate entries.

### **Fiscal Year 2010-2011 and the 50% MOE Rule**

There have been requests from LEAs to publish an updated FY 2011 MOE-CEIS calculator to determine the impact of CEIS expenditures on an LEA’s ability to use the 50% maintenance of effort rule in fiscal year 2010-2011.

The 50% rule is an LEA’s ability to lower their maintenance of effort obligations by half of the increase between one year’s flow-through grant and the next. The 2009-2010 IDEA grants included the ARRA monies. No additional ARRA funds were granted in 2010-2011. This means that all LEAs saw a “decrease” in their IDEA allocations for 2011 because the allocations returned to similar amounts awarded in 2008-2009. Since there was no increase in IDEA flow-through grants between fiscal years 2010 and 2011, the 50% rule does not apply to any LEAs in FY 2010-2011, and in turn, the budgeting and expending of CEIS funds will have no impact on an LEA’s maintenance of effort.

### **Common Rule for Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment**

The Federal government ensures the integrity of federal programs by conducting business only with responsible persons. The US Department of Education uses the debarment and suspension system to exclude persons who are not responsible from benefiting from financial programs. Individuals and entities that have been excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits are considered “debarred.” LEAs are restricted from using IDEA funds to contract with any individual or entity that has been debarred or otherwise declared ineligible from receiving federal funds. The LEA is responsible for determining whether an individual or entity is excluded or disqualified.

The U.S. General Services Administration office has setup a website at <https://www.epls.gov/> to disseminate information on parties that are excluded from receiving Federal funds. The Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) includes information regarding entities debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, excluded or disqualified under the nonprocurement common rule, or otherwise declared ineligible. This information may include names, addresses, DUNS numbers,

Social Security Numbers, Employer Identification Numbers or other Taxpayer Identification Numbers.

When planning to use IDEA funds (or any other federal funds) to contract with vendors, be sure to take the additional step and visit this website to verify that the vendor is not in debarment.

**Special Education Web Portal – Check the Director of Special Education Listing**

To verify who is listed as your district's Director of Special Education in the Special Education web portal, see the listing at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/xls/7-9-10-DSE-login.xls>. This individual has access to all applications within the web portal. This includes the IDEA budgets, the Indicator 7 Child Outcomes application, the Indicator 12 summary reports, the Procedural Compliance Self-Assessment, etc.

The Director of Special Education login access role also has the ability to assign (and terminate) other users in the district access to the web portal either as District Users or Read Only Users.

If the individual assigned the Director of Special Education access role has left your district or had a change in job responsibilities, please contact Nancy Fuhrman at [nancy.fuhrman@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:nancy.fuhrman@dpi.wi.gov) or by phone at (608) 267-9243 so that a new individual can be assigned to this access role.